Selection of Delta Rocket for launch-in of Insat-ID

*94. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the comparative offers of commercial satellite launch facilities being offered by the USA, the Soviet Union, China and the European Economic Community, in terms of cost, time-schedule, reliability and insurance facilities; etc.;

(b) what are the reasons for selection of McDonnell Douglas Delta rocket to launch our INSAT-ID satellite; and

(c) whether this decision in favour of McDonnell Douglas would involve any technology transfer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) INSAT-ID was originally scheduled to have been launched in the late 1988-early 1989 period by the NASA Space Shuttle to replace INSAT-IB, whose End-of-Life (EOL) is predicted for end 1989, plus/minus 6 months. The commercial Delta 4925 launch opportunity was the only practicable timely launch opportunity that was available for INSAT-ID for the launch in March 1989 time period. Through special efforts the launch was obtained, negotiated and finalised with McDonnell Douglas Corporation of USA. Consequent upon the suspension of Space Shuttle flights following 'Challenger' accident of January, 1986, though INSAT-1D was maintained on the curtailed list of foreign commercial payloads retained on the Space Shuttle manifest, a timely space shuttle launch (*i.e* before the predicted End-of-Life of INSAT—IB) was not feasible. In the same time frame of mid-1989 the European Launch Vehicle Ariane for launch of INSAT-1D was also not available Delta Launch Vehicles have a long history of successful flights since their inception in the 60s.

(c) No, Sir.

Hardship faced by Indians going to U.K. to join family members

*95. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether discussions were held or are proposed to be held with the U.K. Immigration authorities to mitigate the hardships being caused to Indian citizens wishing to go to the U.K. and join their family members already settled in the U.K.;

(b) if so, details of the same and the results achieved;

(c) whether the present U.K. Immigration laws are creating difficulties for U.K. citizens of Indian origin in marrying Indian citizens; and

(d) if so, the steps beings taken to solve such problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The difficulties experienced by Indian spouses and dependents in obtaining visas expeditiously to join their relatives in U.K. have been repeatedly taken up with the U.K. authorities.

(b) to (d) The difficulties relate to the application of the "primary purpose" rule contained in the U.K. Immigration Act as well as the long delay in obtaining visas. These matters were recently discussed with U.K. Minister of State in the Home Office Mr. Timothy Renton during his visit to India in September, 1987. The U.K. authorities are aware of India's point of view and have affirmed that a large number of spouses and dependents have been granted visas expeditiously. With the introduction of the new visa system and streamlining of procedures, they are hopeful that the waiting period would be further reduced.